

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, lines 4-14, replace with the following:

The present invention relates to an image forming apparatus having an improved ~~attachment~~ structure for its front cover handle portion ~~control panel unit~~.

In image forming apparatuses, a photosensitive drum ~~unit~~ is rotatably provided in a main unit, and a toner image formed thereon is transferred onto a sheet of paper. The sheet of paper with the toner image transferred thereon is sent to a fixing unit, where it is heated and pressed to have the toner image fixed thereon. After fixing, the paper sheet is ejected into a paper ejection tray via an ejection roller.

Page 2, lines 2-25, replace with the following:

~~Thus, the above image forming apparatus comprises the main unit having the image forming section for forming an image on a paper sheet; an image reading section provided above the main unit, separate from the image forming section, for reading the image; the ejection space provided between the bottom of the image reading section and the image forming section and having the opening formed at the front of the main unit; and the ejection tray cover that receives paper sheets ejected from the image forming section and covers the upper portion of the image forming section.~~

~~This image forming apparatus further comprises a control panel unit provided at the front of the image reading section for controlling the image forming operation.~~

~~Further, a conveyance unit for conveying, when necessary, ejected paper sheets to an optional device, such as a sorting/stacking device, can be attached to and detached from the ejection space.~~

~~However, in the prior art, since the control panel unit is fixedly attached to the ejection space such that it blocks the front of the ejection space, an operator cannot open the ejection tray, which is inconvenient.~~

On the other hand, the front side of the main unit is provided with a front cover which opens and closes the main unit. The front cover is opened and closed with its lower end portion pivotally supported. The front cover has a first holder on one side of the inner side thereof, and a second holder on the other side of the inner side thereof, and is held by a front frame of the main unit via these first and second holders.

Furthermore, the front cover includes a first handle portion on one side of the outer side thereof, and a second handle portion on the other side of the outer side thereof, in such a manner that an operator can hook a finger around the first or second handle portion and open the front cover.

However, in the prior art, when an operator tries to open the front cover by hooking a finger around either one of the first and second handle portions, since the front cover is held by the other holder, the front cover is deformed, and thus it is difficult to open the front cover.

For this reason, when the operator has an article in one hand, he/she is unable to open the front cover, which is inconvenient.